

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TUNIS 02587 301110Z

11

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 300950Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5333

S E C R E T TUNIS 2587

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, TS

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE VISIT OF PRESIDENT NIXON TO MIDDLE EAST

NEA FOR LANE

1. DURING COURSE OF MY MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CHATTI APRIL 29, HE REPORTED RUMOR THAT PRESIDENT NIXON WOULD STOP OFF IN ALGIERS ENROUTE TO CAIRO. HE COMMENTED EN PASSANT THAT HE HOPED, IN VIEW OF TRADITIONAL CLOSE US-TUNISIAN RELATIONSHIP, THAT PRESIDENT WOULD ALSO VISIT TUNIS. I MADE NO COMMENT OTHER THAN TO SAY THAT I HAD NO INFORMATION RE POSSIBLE PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO MIDDLE EAST.

2. YOU ARE AWARE OF COURSE OF TUNISIAN SENSITIVITY LAST FALL WHEN SECRETARY KISSINGER MADE STOPOVER IN RABAT WITHOUT PLANNING FOLLOW-UP VISIT TO TUNIS. SECRETARY'S SUBSEQUENT DECISION TO COME HERE REASSURED PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA OF IMPORTANT U.S. ATTACHES TO TUNISIAN RELATIONSHIP AND OF OUR APPRECIATION FOR WAY HE HAS STOOD BY US OVER THE YEARS. IN CASE OF POSSIBLE VISIT BY PRESIDENT NIXON TO ALGIERS I DO NOT RPT NOT THINK THAT WE SHOULD BE UNDULY CONCERNED BY TUNISIAN SENSITIVITY. BOUMEDIENE DOES AFTER ALL REPRESENT IMPORTANT LEADER IN NON-ALIGNED WORLD AND ONE WHO MIGHT HAVE SOME IMPACT ON SYRIA AND IRAQ IN CONTEXT ARAB-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS. AS LONG AS PRESIDENT NIXON DOES NOT RPT NOT GOT O

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RABAT, I BELIEVE SKIPPING TUNIS WOULD BE MANAGEABLE IN TERMS

OUR RELATIONSHIP, GIVEN PRESIDENT'S LIMITED TIME.

3. THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT WOULD NOT WELCOME VISIT TO
TUNIS BY PRESIDENT NIXON OR THAT SUCH VISIT WOULD NOT
RPT NOT MAKE VERY POSITIVE IMPACT HERE.

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Message Attributes

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